
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
Regular Committee Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2021
via Zoom and in person at Harrigan Centennial Hall

A. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Warren called to order the September 9, 2021 meeting at 12:05 pm.

B. ROLL CALL – (Quorum established by at least one member present from four different categories.)

Present:

Category 1: Valerie Nelson, Assembly Liaison

Category 2: Fire Chief Craig Warren, LEPC Chair (SFD); George Bennett Jr (SEARHC); Jean Achee sitting in for Robert Baty (SPD Chief)

Category 3: Becky Meiers (LEPC PIO, KCAW)

Category 4: Amy Zanuzoski (Sitka Counseling); Mim McConnell

Category 5: Trish White, LEPC Vice-Chair (White's Pharmacy);

Category 6: Mary Ann Hall (Retired Medical Technologist); Joel Hanson; Robert Hattle; Dave Miller

Absent:

Category 2: Shannon Freitas (SEARHC); Geraldine Laux (TSA); Lance Ewers, (SPD)

Category 3: vacancy

Category 4: Justin Mullenix;

Category 5: Scott Wagner (NSRAA)

Category 7: Jennifer Klejka, LEPC Coordinator (SFD)

C. APPROVAL of AGENDA: September 9, 2021

There were no additions, deletions or objections to the agenda.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting of June 10, 2021.

M S –to approve the minutes of June 10, 2021.

Motion carried.

E. COMMUNICATIONS

1. **SHARK/ARES Report:** SHARK member Becky Meiers reported SHARK Club will hold an expo of for anyone interested in seeing what the group is about. This will be held October 2, 2021 at the Sportsman Association. Work continues on the mobile command unit.
2. **Broadcast Communications Update:** Meiers reported on the project to update infrastructure in Port Alexander; KCAW is busy with license renewal and the Fall fund drive. Member Robert Hattle spoke about the importance of local public radio broadcast to the “translator” communities.

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. HazMat Report – None.
2. LEPC Public Information Officer (PIO) – None.
3. Sitka Red Cross – None.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Coronavirus EOC updates

Chief Warren, Incident Commander (IC) for the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) spoke on CDC approval of a third dose inoculation of Pfizer's covid mRNA for immune-compromised individuals (approved since August 25, 2021).

Changes in data provided by CDC and Alaska Public Health, Department of Health and Social Services have resulted in changes to information provided on the City's COVID Dashboard. Chief Warren assured everyone the EOC is committed to transparency, and would show the demographic data if it were available.

Pharmacist Trish White (LEPC Vice Chair) provided detailed distinctions between a first dose inoculation, third dose inoculations provided to immune-compromised individuals and "booster" dose inoculations for non-immuno-compromised individuals. CDC is in the process of approving a "booster" Pfizer inoculation for non-immuno-compromised individuals at least 6-8 months following the person's second dose. The "booster" will be exactly the same Pfizer mRNA inoculation in the same dosage as the first inoculation a person may have received (it could even be the same Lot number, in some situations).

LEPC Member Dave Miller reported on a wide trend among first responders in the Lower 48 to mandate the individual receive Pfizer, Moderna or J&J covid inoculations. There are many first responders who have chosen to leave (or be dismissed) from one's position rather than be inoculated with a Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson and Johnson covid vaccine. This is the first time in the history of the fire service/first responder profession where vacancies are going unfilled, because people are simply not applying for positions in areas where there is a covid vaccine mandate. Miller also noted this is the first time some county morgues are at capacity and it has been necessary to request the purchase of freezer vans.

2. Tsunami Inundation and Pedestrian Evacuation Maps

Chief Warren noted the report and maps were distributed previously for the September meeting. Anyone who did not receive these could request the report and maps from him. The red line (9 feet) was determined to be the absolute worst inundation level for Sitka. Chief Warren invited discussion regarding recommendation(s) to provide to the public, with the goal of keeping as many residents as possible sheltered in place in one's own home. Experiences and lessons learned from other geographic areas were considered (Japanese earthquake/tsunami events, etc).

Chief Warren emphasized Harbor Mountain Road has not proven safe as an evacuation location (impossible to get emergency vehicles and services there to support evacuees to that area, in addition to other hazards of the road to vehicles and pedestrians).

LEPC member Amy Zanuzoski cautioned consideration of unintended consequences of delineating lines of inundation (such as the effect on home owner insurance rates, etc). Zanuzoski and other LEPC members endorsed a broad public information process and inviting public comment on any recommendation(s) that might be developed by LEPC. LEPC member Meiers recommended (and offered) KCAW could be utilized for public forums. Meiers also cautioned that human behavior in an emergency can be unpredictable and LEPC will need to account for the fact that people will do what they decide to do regardless of LEPC

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recommendations. Chair Warren agreed that people have the right to make their own choice and decision.

LEPC Vice Chair White suggested information could be provided on utility statements.

Chair Warren noted the task of LEPC will be to provide information so that residents can make the best, most informed decision for oneself and family.

Chair Warren will work on developing a map with the area between the 25' – 35' marks greyed out as a range place-holder, however it might not be available by the next meeting. Chair Warren recommends the previously provided report be resent to LEPC members. If a printed copy of the report is needed, please contact Chair Warren.

H. NEW BUSINESS: None

I. COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

LEPC Member Dave Miller thanked out-going Assembly Liaison Nelson for her service, and noted she shows up for all meetings. Chief Warren stated in his observance of all the meetings attended by Liaison Nelson, she has had exemplary attendance and has always been well prepared. Outgoing Assembly Liaison Nelson said she may well continue her service as a citizen volunteer and submit her name for consideration to fill one of the seats when there is a vacancy on LEPC. Chief Warren stated she would be welcomed.

J. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA/DATE(S)

Regular Meeting Date: monthly on the 2nd Thursday at noon.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **October 14, 2021** at noon.

Attendance in-person at Harrigan Centennial Hall or via zoom link.

M. ADJOURNMENT:

M/S to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Chair Warren adjourned the meeting at 1:06pm.

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